

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 731

By Staples

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize those outstanding collegians who bring honor to Tennessee and act as ambassadors for our State via debate competition; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society (TSDS), the only competitive debate team at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is one such group of outstanding young people that has excelled in debate competition; and

WHEREAS, TSDS is the only competitive debate team in the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) that is completely alumni-funded and administered by students, a testament to the belief in the program and the resolve by the students to prosper in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, despite the lack of school funding, the students involved with TSDS have shown themselves to be capable and enthusiastic, bringing numerous awards and honors, both individual and collective, to their school and their State; and

WHEREAS, TSDS members have excelled in IPDA competition, and the organization has produced seven national championships in the ten years since the program's inception; currently, three members of TSDS are in the lead for a national championship at the 2020 National Tournament at Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, in addition to building student confidence through competition, TSDS develops public speaking, critical thinking, and time management skills in its members and encourages discourse and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the members of TSDS have demonstrated extraordinary intellect, preparation, and poise in IPDA-style competition, bringing great pride to their families, their school, and the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to honor and congratulate these exemplary Volunteers on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of the Tennessee Speech and Debate Society on their remarkable success across ten years in debate competitions and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.